

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

*Office of the Governor*



**EXECUTIVE ORDER 1401**

**WHEREAS**, the Mississippi Gulf Coast has a diverse maritime industry including ports with deep water access, transportation, commercial fishing, shipbuilding, offshore drilling operations, environmental research, and aquaculture; and

**WHEREAS**, Mississippi is home to strategic military and government entities that provide aquatic research and environmental information such as collecting, processing, and exploiting oceanographic, meteorological, and hydrographic information; and

**WHEREAS**, the Chief of Naval Operations has created Task Force Ocean to advance science and ensure that the U.S. Navy maintains a competitive advantage in our ability to utilize the ocean environment; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Mississippi and the Mississippi Development Authority desire to increase the maritime economy and the synergistic relationship between the military and government assets positioned along the Mississippi Gulf Coast especially as it pertains to the integration and development of unmanned maritime systems and supporting the U.S. Navy's competitive advantage:

**NOW THEREFORE**, I, Phil Bryant, Governor of the State of Mississippi, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the State of Mississippi, do hereby order and direct as follows:

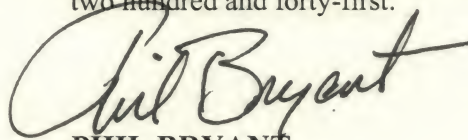
1. The Governor's Ocean Task Force is created to provide expertise for the development of a comprehensive economic development master plan that will focus on growing existing research and development for oceanography, unmanned maritime vehicles, technical workforce development, marine science research, and private sector activity.
2. The Governor's Ocean Task Force shall be advisory in nature and shall be composed of a Chairman and such other members that the Governor deems necessary. The members shall serve voluntarily with no compensation.
3. The Governor's Ocean Task Force shall meet periodically at the call of the Chairman to create an economic development master plan for Mississippi that shall include:
  - a. Cataloging existing investments in the area of ocean technologies and unmanned maritime systems and identifying existing strengths and weaknesses with a recommended comprehensive strategy to bring the state into regional, national and international competitiveness in this area;
  - b. Establishing a tangible and achievable roadmap to build capacity in maritime technology with special emphasis on national defense, energy exploration, marine resources, environmental monitoring, and aquaculture; and
  - c. A strategy for working with state and federal lawmakers for the purpose of developing a vibrant economy around these technologies that includes a means for encouraging maritime technology industries to locate in the state.

**BE IT FURTHER ORDERED** that the Governor's Ocean Task Force shall by November 1, 2017, provide to the Governor a written economic development master plan incorporating the mandates of this Executive Order.

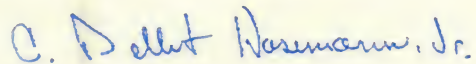


**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Mississippi to be affixed.

**DONE** in the City of Jackson, on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of June in the year of our Lord, two thousand and seventeen, and of the independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and forty-first.

  
**PHIL BRYANT**  
**GOVERNOR**

**BY THE GOVERNOR**



**C. DELBERT HOSEMAN, JR.**  
**SECRETARY OF STATE**